Proposed Changes to Title 14 CCR California Forest Practice Rules

Watercourse Rules Streamlining, 2006

15 Day Notice of Proposed Changes

Date: September 18, 2006

Amend 916.5(e), 936.5(e), 956.5(e) Procedure for Determining
Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone (WLPZ) Widths and Protective
Measures [All Districts]

- \*\*\*\*\*as determined in subsection (b) above.
- (e) The letter designations shown in the "Protective Measures and Widths" column in Table I correspond to the following:
- "A" WLPZ shall be clearly identified on the ground by the RPF who prepared the plan, or supervised designee, with paint, flagging, or other suitable means prior to the preharvest inspection. For nonindustrial timber management plans, sample identification of the WLPZ prior to the preharvest inspection may be allowed. The sample shall be based upon a field examination and be consistent with the applicable provisions of 14 CCR §§ 916.4 [936.4, 956.4] and 916.5 [936.5, 956.5], representing the range of conditions found within the WLPZ. The Director shall determine if the sample identification is adequate for plan evaluation during the preharvest inspection. If sample identification is allowed, the remaining WLPZ shall be identified by an RPF or supervised designee prior to the start of timber operations within or adjacent to the WLPZ. The RPF shall

notify the Department when the WLPZ has been identified.

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"B" WLPZ shall be clearly identified on the ground by an RPF, or supervised designee, with paint, flagging, or other suitable means, prior to the start of timber operations. In watersheds with threatened or impaired values, on the ground identification of the WLPZ shall be completed prior to the preharvest inspection. For all nonindustrial timber management plans, sample identification of the WLPZ prior to the preharvest inspection may be allowed. The sample shall be based upon a field examination and be consistent with the applicable provisions of 14 CCR §§ 916.4 [936.4, 956.4] and 916.5 [936.5, 956.5], representing the range of conditions found within the WLPZ. The Director shall determine if the sample identification is adequate for plan evaluation during the preharvest inspection. If sample identification is allowed, the remaining WLPZ shall be identified by an RPF or supervised designee prior to the start of timber operations within or adjacent to the WLPZ. The RPF shall notify the Department when the WLPZ has been identified.

"C" In site-specific cases, the RPF may provide in the plan, or the Director may require, that the WLPZ be clearly identified on the ground with flagging or by other suitable means prior to the start of timber operations.

properties of the WLPZ and the maintenance of a multi-storied stand for protection of values described in 14 CCR § 916.4(b) [936.4(b), 956.4(b)], a base mark below the cutline of residual or harvest trees within the zone shall be done in advance of the preharvest inspection

by the RPF or supervised designee. residual or harvest trees shall be marked, including a base mark below the cut-line within the WLPZ by the RPF, or supervised designee. Outside of watersheds with threatened or impaired values, sample marking prior to the preharvest inspection is satisfactory in those cases where the Director determines it is adequate for plan evaluation. When sample marking has been used, all marking shall be done in advance of falling operations in the WLPZ by the RPF, or supervised designee. In watersheds with threatened or impaired values, trees shall be marked in advance of the preharvest inspection. For all nonindustrial timber management plans, sample marking of the WLPZ prior to the preharvest inspection may be allowed. The sample shall be based upon a field examination and shall be consistent with the applicable provisions of 14 CCR §§ 916.4 [936.4, 956.4] and 916.5 [936.5, 956.5], representing the range of conditions found within the WLPZ. The Director shall determine if the sample mark is adequate for plan evaluation during the preharvest inspection. If sample marking is allowed, the remaining WLPZ shall be marked by an RPF, or supervised designee, prior to the start of timber operations within or adjacent to the WLPZ. The RPF shall notify the Department when the WLPZ has been identified.

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"E" To ensure retention of shade canopy filter strip
properties of the WLPZ and the maintenance of wildlife a multi-storied
stand for protection of values described in 14 CCR № 916.4(b)
[936.4(b), 956.4(b)], a base mark shall be placed below the cutline of

the residual or harvest trees within the zone and shall be done in advance of timber falling operations by the RPF or supervised designee. residual or harvest trees shall be marked, including a base mark below the cut line, within the WLPZ by the RPF or supervised designee. Outside of watersheds with threatened or impaired values, tree marking shall be done prior to timber falling operations. In watersheds with threatened or impaired values, trees shall be marked in advance of the preharvest inspection. For all nonindustrial timber management plans, sample marking of the WLPZ prior to the preharvest inspection may be allowed. The sample shall be based upon a field examination and shall be consistent with the applicable provisions of 14 CCR §§ 916.4 [936.4, 956.4] and 916.5 [936.5, 956.5], representing the range of conditions found within the WLPZ. The Director shall determine if the sample mark is adequate for plan evaluation during the preharvest inspection. If sample marking is allowed, the remaining WLPZ shall be marked by an RPF or supervised designee prior to the start of timber operations within or adjacent to the WLPZ. The RPF shall notify the Department when the WLPZ has been identified.

**"F"** Residual or harvest tree marking within the WLPZ may be stipulated in the THP by the RPF or required by the Director in site-specific cases to ensure retention of filter strip properties or to maintain soil stability of the zone. The RPF shall state in the THP if marking was used in these zones.\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*(e) Channel zone requirements

(1) There shall be no timber operations within the channel zone with the following exceptions:

(A) timber harvesting that is directed to improve salmonid

(A) timber harvesting that is directed to improve sall habitat through the limited use of the selection or commercial thinning silvicultural methods with review and comment by DFG.

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 $\mbox{(B)}$  timber harvesting necessary for the construction or reconstruction of approved watercourse crossings.

(C) timber harvesting necessary for the protection of public health and safety.

 $\,$  (D) to allow for full suspension cable yarding when necessary to transport logs through the channel zone.

(E) Class III watercourses where exclusion of timber operations is not needed for protection of listed salmonids.

(2) In all instances where trees are proposed to be felled within the channel zone, a base mark shall be placed below the cut line of the harvest trees within the zone. Such marking shall be completed by the RPF that prepared the plan prior to the preharvest inspection.

reaches where anadromous salmonids are always or seasonally present and to those watercourse reaches where anadromy is limited, but can be feasibly restored as identified by a DFG biologist or as further identified and refined during preparation and review of the plan.

In the event that the Director concludes, based on written comments received from an agency listed in PRC §4582.6 and 14 CCR § 1037.3 and which participated in review of the plan, that the application of one or more of these subsections is necessary to conform with 14 CCR §§ 916.2[936.2, 956.2] (a) and 916.9[936.9, 956.9] (a), the Director

shall require that the specific protection measure(s) be made part of

(f)(1)(f) The minimum WLPZ width for Class I waters shall be 150 feet from the watercourse or lake transition line. Where a

proposed THP is located within the Sacramento or San Joaquin river drainages, and the Director and DFG concur; the RPF may explain and justify other WLPZ widths on areas where even aged regeneration methods, seed tree removal, shelterwood removal, alternative prescriptions, or rehabilitation will not be utilized adjacent to watercourse and lake protection zones and where slopes are less than 30%.

(g)(2)(g) Within a WLPZ for Class I waters, at least 85 percent overstory canopy shall be retained within 75 feet of the watercourse or lake transition line, and at least 65 percent overstory canopy within the remainder of the WLPZ. The overstory canopy must be composed of at least 25% overstory conifer canopy post-harvest. Where a proposed THP is located within the Sacramento or San Joaquin river drainages, and the Director and DFG concur; the RPF may explain and justify other canopy retention standards on areas where even aged regeneration methods, seed tree removal, shelterwood removal, alternative prescriptions, or rehabilitation will not be utilized adjacent to watercourse and lake protection zones and where slopes are less than 30%.

Harvesting of hardwoods shall only occur for the purpose of enabling conifer regeneration.

 $\frac{(h)}{(3)}$  For Class I waters, any plan involving timber operations within the WLPZ shall contain the following information:

 $\frac{(1)}{(A)}(1)$  A clear and enforceable specification of how any disturbance or log or tree cutting and removal within the Class I WLPZ

shall be carried out to conform with 14 CCR 916.2 [936.2, 956.2](a) and 916.9 [936.9, 956.9](a).

(2)(B)(2) A description of all existing permanent crossings of Class I waters by logging roads and clear specification regarding how these crossings are to be modified, used, and treated to minimize risks, giving special attention to allowing fish to pass both upstream and downstream during all life stages.

(3)(C)(3) Clear and enforceable specifications for construction and operation of any new crossing of Class I waters to prevent direct harm, habitat degradation, water velocity increase, hindrance of fish passage, or other potential impairment of beneficial uses of water.

(i)(4)(i) Recruitment of large woody debris for aquatic habitat in Class I anadromous fish-bearing or restorable waters shall be ensured by retaining the ten largest dbh conifers (live or dead) per 330 feet of stream channel length that are the most conducive to recruitment to provide for the beneficial functions of riparian zones. The retained conifers shall be selected from within the THP area that lies within 50 feet of the watercourse transition line. Where the THP boundary is an ownership boundary, a class I watercourse, and the WLPZ on both sides of the watercourse currently meets the stocking standards listed under 14 CCR § 912.7[932.7,952.7](b)(2)}; the five (5) largest dbh conifers (live or dead) per 330 feet of stream channel length that are the most conducive to recruitment to provide for the beneficial functions of riparian zones within the THP area shall be retained within 50 feet of the watercourse transition line.

The RPF may propose alternatives to substitute smaller diameter trees, trees that are more than 50 feet from the watercourse transition line, or other alternatives on a site specific basis. The RPF must explain and justify in the THP why the proposed alternative is more conducive to current and long-term Large Woody Debris recruitment, shading, bank stability, and the beneficial functions of riparian zones.

(j)(5)(j) Where an inner gorge extends beyond a Class I WLPZ and slopes are greater than 55%, a special management zone shall be established where the use of evenaged regeneration methods is prohibited. This zone shall extend upslope to the first major breakin-slope to less than 55% for a distance of 100 feet or more, or 300 feet as measured from the watercourse or lake transition line, which ever is less. (g) All operations on slopes exceeding 65% within an inner gorge of a Class I or II watercourse shall be reviewed by a Registered Professional Geologist prior to plan approval, regardless of whether they are proposed within a WLPZ or outside of a WLPZ.

(k)(h)(k) From October 15 to May 1, the following shall apply:

(1) no timber operations shall take place unless the approved plan incorporates a complete winter period operating plan pursuant to 14 CCR § 914.7(a) [934.7(a), 954.7(a)], (2) unless the winter period operating plan proposes operations during an extended period with low antecedent soil wetness, no tractor roads shall be constructed, reconstructed, or used on slopes that are over 40 percent and within 200 feet of a Class I, II, or III watercourse, as measured from the watercourse or lake transition line, and (3) operation of trucks and

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heavy equipment on roads and landings shall be limited to those with a stable operating surface.

(1)(1)(1)(1) Construction or reconstruction of logging roads, tractor roads, or landings shall not take place during the winter period unless the approved plan incorporates a complete winter period operating plan pursuant to 14 CCR § 914.7(a) that specifically address such road construction. Use of logging roads, tractor roads, or landings shall not take place at any location where saturated soil conditions exist, where a stable logging road or landing operating surface does not exist, or when visibly turbid water from the road, landing, or skid trail surface or inside ditch may reach a watercourse or lake. Grading to obtain a drier running surface more than one time before reincorporation of any resulting berms back into the road surface is prohibited.

(m)(j)(m) All tractor roads shall have drainage and/or drainage collection and storage facilities installed as soon as practical following yarding and prior to either (1) the start of any rain which causes overland flow across or along the disturbed surface within a WLPZ or within any ELZ or EEZ designated for watercourse or lake protection, or (2) any day with a National Weather Service forecast of a chance of rain of 30 percent or more, a flash flood warning, or a flash flood watch.

(n)(k)(n) Within the WLPZ, and within any ELZ or EEZ designated for watercourse or lake protection, treatments to stabilize soils, minimize soil erosion, and prevent the discharge of sediment into

waters in amounts deleterious to aquatic species or the quality and beneficial uses of water, or that threaten to violate applicable water quality requirements, shall be applied in accordance with the following standards:

(1) The following requirements shall apply to all such treatments.

- (A) They shall be described in the plan.
- (B) For areas disturbed from May 1 through October 15, treatment shall be completed prior to the start of any rain that causes overland flow across or along the disturbed surface.
- (C) For areas disturbed from October 16 through April 30, treatment shall be completed prior to any day for which a chance of rain of 30 percent or greater is forecast by the National Weather Service or within 10 days, whichever is earlier.
- (2) The traveled surface of logging roads shall be treated to prevent waterborne transport of sediment and concentration of runoff that results from timber operations.
- (3) The treatment for other disturbed areas, including: (A) areas exceeding 100 contiguous square feet where timber operations have exposed bare soil, (B) approaches to tractor road watercourse crossings between the drainage facilities closest to the crossing, (C) road cut banks and fills, and (D) any other area of disturbed soil that threatens to discharge sediment into waters in amounts deleterious to the quality and beneficial uses of water, may include, but need not be limited to, mulching, rip-rapping, grass seeding, or

chemical soil stabilizers. Where straw, mulch, or slash is used, the minimum coverage shall be 90%, and any treated area that has been subject to reuse or has less than 90% surface cover shall be treated again prior to the end of timber operations. The RPF may propose alternative treatments that will achieve the same level of erosion control and sediment discharge prevention.

(4) Where the undisturbed natural ground cover cannot effectively protect beneficial uses of water from timber operations, the ground shall be treated by measures including, but not limited to, seeding, mulching, or replanting, in order to retain and improve its natural ability to filter sediment, minimize soil erosion, and stabilize banks of watercourses and lakes.

(0)(1)(0) As part of the plan, the RPF shall identify active erosion sites in the logging area, assess them to determine which sites pose significant risks to the beneficial uses of water, assess them to determine whether feasible remedies exist, and address in the plan feasible remediation for all sites that pose significant risk to the beneficial uses of water.

(p)(m)(p) The erosion control maintenance period on permanent and seasonal roads and associated landings that are not abandoned in accordance with 14 CCR § 923.8 shall be three years.

(q)(n)(g) Site preparation activities shall be designed to prevent soil disturbance within, and minimize soil movement into, the channels of watercourses. Prior to any broadcast burning, burning prescriptions shall be designed to prevent loss of large woody debris

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in watercourses, and vegetation and duff within a WLPZ, or within any ELZ or EEZ designated for watercourse or lake protection. No ignition is to occur within any WLPZ, or within any ELZ or EEZ designated for watercourse or lake protection. When burning prescriptions are proposed, the measures or burning restrictions which are intended to accomplish this goal shall be stated in the plan and included in any required burning permit. This information shall be provided in addition to the information required under 14 CCR § 915.4.

(r)(c)(x) Water drafting for timber operations from within a channel zone of a natural watercourse or from a lake shall conform with the following standards:

- (1) The RPF shall incorporate into the THP:
- $\mbox{(A) a description and map of proposed water drafting} \\ \mbox{locations,}$ 
  - (B) the watercourse or lake classification, and
- (C) the general drafting location use parameters

  (i.e., yearly timing, estimated total volume needed, estimated total uptake rate and filling time, and associated water drafting activities from other THPs).
- (2) On Class I and Class II streams where the RPF has estimated that:
- (A) bypass flows are less than 2 cubic feet per second, or
- (B) pool volume at the water drafting site would be reduced by 10%, or

(C) diversion rate exceeds 350 gallons per minute, or

(D) diversion rate exceeds 10% of the above surface flow; no water drafting shall occur unless the RPF prepares a water drafting plan to be reviewed and, if necessary a stream bed alteration agreement issued, by DFG and approved by the Director. The Director may accept the project description and conditions portion of an approved "Streambed Alteration Agreement" issued under the Fish and Game Code (F&GC 1600 et seq.) which is submitted instead of the water drafting plan described in 14 CCR §916.9(r)(2)(D)(1-5).

The water drafting plan shall include, but not be limited to:

- 11 | 1. disclosure of estimated percent streamflow reduction and duration of reduction,
  - 2. discussion of the effects of single pumping operations, or multiple pumping operations at the same location,
    - 3. proposed alternatives and discussion to prevent adverse effects (e.g. reduction in hose diameter, reduction in total intake at one location, described allowances for recharge time, and alternative water drafting locations),
  - 4. conditions for operators to include an operations log kept on the water truck containing the following information: Date, Time, Pump Rate, Filling Time, Screen Cleaned, Screen Conditions, and Bypass flow observations,
  - 5. a statement by the RPF for a pre-operations field review with the operator to discuss the conditions in the water drafting plan.
    - (3) Intakes shall be screened in Class I and Class II

(3) operations conducted for public safety,

- (4) construction or reconstruction of approved watercourse crossings,
- (5) temporary crossings of dry Class III watercourses which do not require a "Streambed Alteration Agreement" under the Fish and Game Code,
- (6) forest conditions requiring harvesting that is approved by a letter of concurrence from DFG harvesting recommended in writing by DFG to address specifically identified forest conditions,
- (7) the harvest of dead, or dying, or diseased conifer trees subject to the following conditions:
- (A) Recruitment of large woody debris for aquatic habitat in Class I anadromous fish-bearing or restorable waters shall be ensured by retaining the ten largest dbh conifers (live or dead) per 330 feet of stream channel length that are the most conducive to recruitment to provide for the beneficial functions of riparian zones. The retained conifers shall be selected from within the THP area of operations that lies within 50 feet of the watercourse transition line. Where the THP boundary is area of operations is bounded by an ownership boundary, a class I watercourse, and the WLPZ on both sides of the watercourse currently meets the stocking standards listed under 14 CCR § 912.7[932.7,952.7](b)(2)}; the five (5)largest dbh conifers (live or dead) per 330 feet of stream channel length that are the most conducive to recruitment to provide for the beneficial functions of riparian zones within the THP area shall be retained within 50 feet of the watercourse transition line within the area of operations.

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The RPF may proposeprovide alternatives to substitute smaller diameter trees, trees that are more than 50 feet from the watercourse transition line, or other alternatives on a site specific basis. The RPF must explain and justify in the THP provide with the notice an explanation and justification why the proposed alternative provided is more conducive to current and long-term Large Woody Debris recruitment, shading, bank stability, and the beneficial functions of riparian zones.

(B) Within any WLPZ, ELZ, or EEZ designated for Class

II or III watercourse protection, a minimum of two dead, dying, or

diseased conifer trees per acre at least 16 inches diameter breast

high and 50 feet tall shall be retained within 50 feet of the

watercourse transition line.

(C) Trees to be harvested or retained shall be marked by, or under the supervision of, an RPF prior to timber operations within the WLPZ or ELZ/EEZ.

(D) Within the WLPZ or ELZ/EEZ, if the stocking standards of 14 CCR § 912[932, 952].7 are not met upon completion of timber operations, unless the area meets the definition of substantially damaged timberlands, at least ten trees shall be planted for each tree harvested but need not exceed an average point count of 300 trees per acre (741.3 per ha).

(t)(r)(u) No salvage logging is allowed in a WLPZ without an approved HCP, a PTEIR, an SYP, or an approved plan that contains a section that sets forth objectives, goals, and measurable results for streamside salvage operations.

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(u)(s)(v) Nonstandard practices (i.e., waivers, exceptions, inlieu practices, and alternative practices) shall comply with the goal
set forth in subsection (a) above as well as with the other
requirements set forth in the rules.

(v)(t)(w) The Director may approve alternatives provided the alternative practice will achieve the goal of this section. The Director shall not accept for inclusion in a plan any alternative practice as described in this section where two or more agencies listed in 4582.6 of the PRC and 14 CCR § 1037.3 have submitted written comments which lead to the Director's conclusion that the proposed alternative will not meet the goal of this section and the agency(ies) participated in the review of the plan, including an on-the-ground inspection.

(w)(x) Other measures that would effectively achieve the goal set forth in 14 CCR § 916.9(a) may be approved in accordance with 14 CCR 916.6.

(x)(y)(y) The provisions of 14 CCR § 916.9 shall not apply to a plan that is subject to an incidental take permit based upon an approved Habitat Conservation Plan that addresses anadromous salmonid protection.

 $\frac{(y)(w)(z)}{(z)}$  This section shall expire on December 31,  $\frac{20062007}{(z)}$ .